

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 28, 2010, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 11, 22, 29, 32, 43 and 51 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-13, 22-27, 29-34, 43-54 and 59-62 are pending and subject to consideration. Reconsideration of the Application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 22-26, 29-34, 43-54 and 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,438,233 to Yoshimune et al. (hereinafter "Yoshimune") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,482 to Sears et al. (hereinafter "Sears"). Claims 2-3, 45-46 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimune in view of Sears and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,208,745 to Quentin et al. (hereinafter "Quentin"). Claims 6 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimune in view of Sears and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,663,748 to Huffman et al. (hereinafter "Huffman"). To the extent the rejections remain applicable to the claims as amended, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as follows.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshimune, Sears, Quentin and Huffman, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a method for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the method including at

least the following combination of features: “receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center; providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer; displaying a page of the selected electronic book on the viewer, the page including text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer; receiving a selection of text on the displayed page to be provided in audio; and providing at least a portion of the selected text in corresponding audio,” as recited in amended claim 1.

The Office Action, on pages 3-4, asserts that Yoshimune discloses that “a book selection from a list of books available at the data center is made by the user of the user terminal where the selected book is accessed, processed and transmitted to the user terminal from the data center,” citing to what appears to be Figs. 13 and 14 and col. 21, line 10-col. 22, line 60 of Yoshimune. However, the Applicants respectfully disagree.

Yoshimune, in col. 21, lines 11-20, discloses that “database data stored within the database data storage unit 131 of the data center side system 130 is enciphered by using different keys for different items” and that “the enciphered database data are then transmitted from the data transmission unit 134 to the data receiving unit 141 of the user terminal side system 140 and stored in the data storage unit 142.” Yoshimune, in col. 21, lines 40-57, further discloses deciphering “the database data supplied from the data storage unit 142 by using the key data supplied from the data receiving unit 141 . . . [and] compos[ing] the book data from the database data deciphered by the data deciphering unit . . . [where] the obtained book data is displayed at the book data display unit.”

Yoshimune, however, does not disclose or suggest “receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center; [and] providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer . . . wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer,” as recited in amended claim 1. Instead, Yoshimune discloses transmitting all of the enciphered data to the storage unit in the user terminal. Thus, the obtained book for viewing in Yoshimune is from the data storage unit in the user terminal and not from “from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center . . . wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer,” as recited in amended claim 1. Further, Yoshimune discloses receiving a key from the data center at the user terminal to decipher the text of a book already stored at the user terminal, and does not disclose or suggest “providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer . . . wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Sears, Quentin and Huffman fail to disclose the above features, and therefore, fail to cure the above noted deficiencies of Yoshimune.

For at least the above reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. For similar reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 8, 11, 22, 29, 32 and 43 are also allowable over the cited references.

As claims 1, 8, 11, 22, 29, 32, 43 and 51 are allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 2-6, 9-10, 12-13, 23-27, 30-31, 33-34, 44-50, 52-54, and 59-62, which depend from claims 1, 8, 11, 22, 29, 32, 43 and 51, respectively, are likewise allowable over the cited references, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

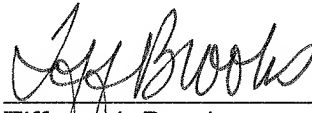
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 8-13, 22-27, 29-34, 43-54 and 59-62 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 026880-00014.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (1 -month)
Request for Continued Examination (RCE)